

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 1, line 62, as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, the first fitting includes a first ridged member [and a second ridged member]. Further, the filter bag retainer comprises a threaded cylinder and a first abutment. Still further, the second fitting includes a threaded inner surface and a second abutment. Accordingly, the assembly is adapted to trap the first ridged member [against] between the first abutment and [to trap the second ridged member against] the second abutment as the threaded inner surface is tightened on to the threaded cylinder.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 2, line 10, as follows:

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a vacuum cleaner is provided. The vacuum cleaner includes a receptacle with an inlet. Further, vacuum cleaner includes a filter bag with a filter bag aperture. Still further, the vacuum cleaner includes a plate connected to the filter bag, wherein the plate also has an aperture. Yet further, the vacuum cleaner includes a filter bag retainer with first and second retainer slots, a threaded cylinder, and a cylinder abutment, wherein the plate slides into the retainer slots and the threaded cylinder is inserted into the tank aperture. In addition, the vacuum cleaner includes a first fitting with a ridged end, a non-ridged end, and a [first] ridged member, [and a second ridged member,] wherein the non-ridged end is inserted through the inlet, the filter bag aperture, and the plate aperture. Also, the vacuum cleaner includes a second fitting with a threaded inner surface and a fitting abutment, wherein the threaded inner surface engages the threaded cylinder thereby [forcing] trapping the [first] ridged member [against] between the cylinder abutment and [forcing the second ridged member against] the fitting abutment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 2, line 30, as follows:

In some embodiments, the vacuum cleaner further comprises a hose with outer ribs and inner ribs, wherein the outer ribs engage the threaded inner surface of the second fitting and the inner ribs engage the [threaded] ridged end of the first fitting.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 3, line 51, as follows:

For the purpose of loosely trapping the inlet fitting 32 adjacent the filter bag retainer 18, a swivel fitting 38 is provided. The swivel fitting 38 is cylindrical in shape and includes a threaded inner surface 40 and a swivel fitting abutment 42. The threaded inner surface 40 of the swivel fitting 38 engages and joins the threaded cylinder 28 of the filter bag retainer 18 by rotation of the swivel fitting 38. As the swivel fitting 38 is tightened down on the filter bag retainer 18, a first ridged member 44 of the inlet fitting 32 is loosely trapped [adjacent] between the cylinder abutment 31, and [a second ridged member 46 of the inlet fitting 32 is loosely trapped adjacent] the swivel fitting abutment 42 (see FIGS. 3 – 5).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 3, line 65, as follows:

In addition, a hose 48 is provided. The hose 48 includes a series of outer ribs 52 and a series of inner ribs 54 forming a grooved aperture. The inner ribs 54 engage and couple to [the] a second ridged member 46 of the inlet fitting 32 preferably using a force fit in a known manner. In this configuration, the end of the hose 48 may travel with the rotating swivel fitting 38 (see FIGS. 3 – 5).

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 5. These sheets replace the original sheets showing Figs. 1 and 5.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets